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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:

Alan J. Ruud et al.

Serial No.: 09/696,676

Filed: October 24, 2000

Title: LOW-PROFILE OVERHEAD
INDUSTRIAL LIGHT FIXTURE

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) Group Art Unit: 2875
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) Examiner: Anabel Ton
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Hon. Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks
Box Non-Fee Amendment
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 21, 2001.

Remarks

The Applicants appreciate the attention of the Examiner to the application. The Office Action and cited references have been reviewed with care in preparation of this Response. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability of claims 14-27. Applicants submit that claims 1-13 are also patentable, and will address in some detail below the Examiner's rejection of such claims.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by the Bowman et al. '868 patent. Applicants respectfully suggest that reliance by the Examiner on Bowman et al. for rejection of claims 1-13 in the application is misplaced. The invention of claims 1-13 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Bowman et al., as will be shown below.

The instant invention, as defined in claim 1 (the sole independent claim), differs from the Bowman et al. device both structurally and in purpose and manner of use. The Bowman et al. device is an overhead lighting fixture and does have a housing, electrical components and a socket; however, the Bowman et al. patent does not disclose or in any way suggest the critical characteristics and combination of features of Applicants' invention as set forth in claim 1.